



# FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TODAY

*News and topics of interest to financial institutions regulated by the Department of Banking and Finance*

March 2024

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### Collecting Identifying Information Required Under the Customer Identification Program Rule

The FDIC issued an advisory to reemphasize the requirements under the Customer Identification Program (CIP) Rule as it relates to collecting identifying information from customers. The advisory reminds institutions of the information required to be collected from the customer prior to account opening. The advisory can be accessed [here](#).

### ABA and U.S. Postal Inspection Service Announce Partnership to Combat Check Fraud

The American Bankers Association and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service announced a new joint effort to combat the rapid rise in check fraud, which has increased nationwide by 385% since the pandemic, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. Check Fraud schemes commonly target the U.S. mail to steal checks, alter or wash them to change the payee and dollar amount, and ultimately steal money from victims’ accounts. A link to the press release can be found [here](#).

In addition, as part of the partnership a new consumer resource has been introduced to educate consumers about checking washing and what they can do to protect their mail and their checks. The consumer resource can be accessed [here](#).

### America Saves Week 2024

As part of America Saves Week 2024, scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Department is encouraging the community to focus on individual financial wellness. Since 2007 America Saves Week has been an annual celebration as well as a call to action for everyday Americans to commit to saving successfully. Through the support of thousands of participating organizations, we encourage individuals to do a financial check-in that allows them to get a clear view of their finances, set savings goals, and create a plan to achieve them. The 2024 campaign includes the following daily themes:

- Saving Automatically
- Saving for the Unexpected
- Saving for Major Milestones
- Paying Down Debt is Saving
- Saving at Any Age

Organizations interested in joining America Saves Week 2024 as a participating organization can find additional information at <https://americasavesweek.org/sign-up/>. Individuals interested in taking financial action can take the America Saves pledge or re-pledge at <https://americasaves.org/for-savers/pledge>.

## “Money Moves to Build Savings and Financial Capability” Webinar on April 11<sup>th</sup>

Learn about building financial capability during an April 11th webinar hosted by the National Credit Union Administration’s Office of Consumer Financial Protection.

Online registration for this webinar is open and can be accessed [here](#). The webinar is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Eastern and is expected to last one hour. With speakers from America Saves and Bank On, *Money Moves to Build Savings and Financial Capability* will explore the importance of saving and having safe, fair, and affordable accounts for all.

Participants are encouraged to submit questions in advance by emailing [WebinarQuestions@ncua.gov](mailto:WebinarQuestions@ncua.gov). The email’s subject line should read, “Building Financial Capability.” Please email technical questions about accessing the webinar to either [uccwebinar@ncua.gov](mailto:uccwebinar@ncua.gov) or [uccsupport@ncua.gov](mailto:uccsupport@ncua.gov).

## Speaking Engagements

Deputy Commissioner for Supervision Melissa Sneed will be participating in the GBA-sponsored Georgia Banking School from April 28, 2024 –May 3, 2024. Additional information regarding the Georgia Banking School and registration can be accessed [here](#).

## ACTION ON APPLICATIONS FOR THE MONTH

The following is a summary of official action taken by the Department on certain applications by Georgia state-chartered financial institutions, petitions for certificate of incorporation of financial institutions, and other matters of recent interest:

### **APPLICATIONS TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE**

<b><u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u></b>	<b><u>BRANCH OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVAL DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u></b>
Barwick Banking Company Barwick, GA	620 S. State Road 19 Palatka, FL 32177	03/05/2024	
VyStar Credit Union Jacksonville, FL	5125 Peachtree Parkway Peachtree Corners, GA 30092	03/21/2024	

### **APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION MERGERS**

<b><u>SURVIVOR</u></b>	<b><u>MERGED INSTITUTION</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVAL DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u></b>
Interstate Credit Union Jesup, GA	CRMC Employees Credit Union Douglas, GA 31533	Pending	
Southern States Bank Anniston, AL	Century Bank of Georgia Cartersville, GA 30120	Pending	

### **APPLICATIONS TO ACQUIRE A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**

<b><u>SURVIVOR</u></b>	<b><u>TO ACQUIRE</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVAL DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u></b>
Southern States Bancshares Anniston, AL	CBB Bancorp Cartersville, GA 30120	Pending	

### **APPLICATIONS TO CHANGE MAIN OFFICE LOCATIONS**

<b><u>FINANCIAL INSTITUTION</u></b>	<b><u>CHANGE LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVAL DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u></b>
Georgia Community Bank Dawson, GA	From: 250 E. Lee Street Dawson, GA 39842  To: 704 N. Westover Boulevard Albany, GA 31707	03/20/2024	

### **APPLICATIONS TO RESERVE NAME**

<b><u>PROPOSED NAME</u></b>	<b><u>COUNTY</u></b>	<b><u>APPLICANT</u></b>
CCB Bancorp	Clarke	James Stevens Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP 600 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 300 Atlanta, GA 30308

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### **Department of Banking and Finance**

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The Department is the state agency that regulates and examines Georgia state-chartered banks, state-chartered credit unions, state-chartered trust companies, international banking organizations, and bank holding companies that own Georgia state-chartered financial institutions. The Department also has responsibility for the supervision, regulation, and examination of merchant acquirer limited purpose banks chartered in Georgia.

In addition, the Department has regulatory and/or licensing authority over mortgage brokers, lenders and processors, mortgage loan originators, consumer installment loan companies, check cashers, sellers-issuers of payment instruments, and money transmitters.

**Our Mission** is to promote safe, sound, competitive financial services in Georgia through innovative, responsive regulation and supervision.